

## **PATH RFF 2013-07 Questions and Answers**

- 1. In the past, our service area wasn't sufficiently populated to make the cut for this grant. Do we have a chance this time?**

Your likelihood of receiving funding depends on the other applications received. It is anticipated that all the presently funded teams will apply. There are no "bonus points" for having an existing team, but one might expect that their experience and familiarity with the program would enable them to submit a good application. Some of the areas not now funded will probably apply as well. Applicants who most sufficiently fulfill the criteria discussed in the RFF and appear to be the most advantageous to the targeted population of this project will be selected for award.

- 2. To assist us with a little time allocation decision, what's the average size (or range, whatever's convenient) of the current awards, please?**

From \$70,000 to \$130,000. The amount varies by provider. The total amount of funds available for award is expected to be similar to that which was available in 2013, which was \$966,000.

- 3. If match funds are overhead costs, does the grant recipient have to have an approved indirect cost rate agreement with SAMHSA? Or will the agency's overhead (or allocated) cost rate be acceptable?**

There has traditionally been no rate agreement with SAMHSA. The agency's overhead rate has generally been acceptable.

- 4. What are the limitations to the matching funds?**

Matching funds must be non-federal funds. Under this grant, there must be at least \$1 of matching funds for every \$3 of grant funds. Refer to the Public Health Service Act Section 522, located in the Request for Funding, for details on matching funds and limitations of funds.

- 5. Are there limitations to the types of costs that can be incurred?**

Allowable costs are as specified in Public Health Service Act Section 522, located in the Request for Funding. In general, all federal funds are subject to allowable costs requirements as specified in the federal Office of Management and Budget circulars, available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars\\_default](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default). The circular each agency follows depends on their classification. A non-profit agency would follow OMB Circular A-122.

- 6. The announcement indicates the competition will occur every four years. Will the awarded centers be provided with a four year contract or will the contract be for one year with a renewal option for the State?**

The contract will be for one year with three renewals. Renewal is based on meeting expectations of the grant and available funding.

**7. Can a FTE position hired under this grant bill for services to eligible clients?**

FTE supported by this grant must be spent on PATH-related activities and services for PATH-eligible clients. PATH-eligible clients receiving services are not charged for the services they receive. Any staff time paid for by PATH grant funds cannot also be billed to another funding source.

**8. Can you detail what data is to be collected and how it is reported?**

The data to be collected is specified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's data reporting requirements. Currently, the required data is as follows:

- Budget, including staff time, matched, and unmatched funds
- Number of persons contacted, enrolled, or receiving any PATH service
- Housing status of persons served
- Number and type of services provided
- Number and type of referrals provided
- Demographics:
  - Gender
  - Race
  - Age
  - Ethnicity
  - Veteran status
  - Co-occurring illness
  - Residence prior to enrollment
  - Length of time living outdoors

Data is currently reported annually online. Awarded applicants will be given more detailed information about data reporting.

**9. Can you provide a sample (or all) of the reports previously submitted under this funding by other centers?**

Historically, no reports have been submitted by other centers. Data is reported annually via a web site for all data requirements.

**10. For budgeting purposes- What trainings are staff expected to attend? How often are the trainings and how long do they last? Do the trainings typically occur in Indianapolis or other locations?**

The applicant should expect and budget for 1 to 2 statewide meetings a year. Meetings are typically one full day and are located in Indianapolis.

In addition, each PATH provider is expected to integrate SOAR training and utilization into their agency and community. Currently, there is no planned statewide SOAR training, but there are

SOAR trainers in Indiana that hold trainings as well as an online training available. Budgeted amounts for this training will depend on the individual provider and plan.

**11. How often are statewide meetings held? Where will the statewide meetings take place?**

Please see the answer to Question 10.

**12. Under the “Application Criteria” in the RFF- you state “Project the number of individuals that will be enrolled via outreach.” For which program are you asking for enrollment numbers?**

Individuals who are enrolled in the PATH program. This would be any individual who is PATH-eligible and receives a service under PATH as a result of outreach efforts, as opposed to other types of efforts. Outreach is a process of finding and engaging a homeless individual in hopes of bringing them to housing, treatment and other needed supports. That outreach may be a simple greeting or introduction. It may be an inquiry as to the person’s safety or hunger. It is an opening that will lead to further conversation and engagement. In some cases the outreach and engagement happen at the same time when someone is ready for change, and other times outreach may take place over a period of months before the person becomes engaged. The State PATH Contacts Welcome Manual from SAMHSA gives the following description of outreach services:

***Outreach Services:** The process of bringing individuals who do not access traditional services into treatment. Effective outreach utilizes strategies aimed at engaging persons into the needed array of services, including identification of individuals in need, screening, development of rapport, offering support while assisting with immediate and basic needs, and referral to appropriate resources. Outreach to people who are experiencing homelessness and mental illness results in increased access to community services.*

- *A active outreach is defined as face-to-face interaction with literally homeless people in streets, shelters, under bridges, and in other non-traditional settings. In active outreach, workers seek out homeless individuals.*
- *Outreach may include methods such as distribution of flyers and other written information, public service announcements, and other indirect methods.*
- *Outreach may also include “inreach,” defined as when outreach staff are placed in a service site frequented by homeless people, such as a shelter or community resource center, and direct, face to face interactions occur at that site. In this form of outreach, homeless individuals seek out outreach workers.*

An example of a client who is enrolled by means other than outreach would be a client who comes in to a mental health center asking for services.

**13. What is the RFF’s definition of street outreach?**

See the answer to Question 12 for a definition of outreach. Street outreach is providing that outreach on the streets, in homeless camps, under overpasses, and other non-traditional settings where the homeless may be found.

**14. Do homeless clients currently receiving Community Mental Health Center behavioral health services qualify to receive services under the PATH grant?**

The PATH grant is focused on finding those in need of housing and treatment services and getting them referred for such services. If a person is already receiving treatment services and is homeless it would seem to fall under the auspices of the case manager and therapist, not the PATH team. Some PATH funds can be used to prevent homelessness so it is possible that someone in treatment could benefit from PATH; however, the overall focus of the PATH teams is finding those in need of treatment and housing.

**15. Does township level data exist showing homeless counts? If so, where can it be found? (The Point in Time homeless counts provided by Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention are by county.)**

If your service area is smaller than the area for which data is available, some extrapolation may suffice. In many cases this may exaggerate your homeless estimates. The intent of the question regarding the number of homeless in the area to be served was to have the applicant demonstrate a need for a homeless outreach team. With the data that is available, you may estimate the number of homeless that are in your townships. Applicants who provide estimated data should explain how they made the estimation in their application. Other available data, such as income levels to demonstrate poverty levels or unemployment information, could also be used to strengthen the demonstration of need in your area.